



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MTA BOARD TO VOTE ON STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO  
BUILD \$1.7 BILLION LIGHT RAIL ALONG  
CRENSHAW/LAX TRANSIT CORRIDOR**

*Project will generate 7,800 jobs*

**LOS ANGELES** – Scores of community residents, many traveling together in buses, will pack the meeting Thursday of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to urge the board to adopt a staff recommendation to build a light rail system through the 8.5-square-mile Crenshaw to Los Angeles International Airport Corridor.

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas has championed the \$1.7 billion project, which according to MTA staff projections will generate 7,800 jobs, more than twice as many as the bus rapid transit alternative would have produced.

Light rail – rather than a rapid bus alternative – was the overwhelming choice of the 400 people who attended four public hearings.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, who succeeded in moving up the timeline for the project from 2029 to between 2016 and 2018, says the project is long overdue and will provide congestion relief, improve air quality and serve as an economic catalyst.

Clergy, business and community leaders, and representatives of elected officials will be among the speakers urging the MTA board to adopt the staff recommendation.

The rail line would run through the cities of Los Angeles, Inglewood, Hawthorne, El Segundo as well as unincorporated areas of the County and Los Angeles International Airport.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas has fought to ensure that safety issues and concerns of business are addressed. A motion that he pushed through the MTA Board gives the project “first priority” to new federal funding the agency will pursue to expand the underground portion of the project.

The light rail will be the first alternative transportation project to relieve congestion on the 405 Freeway and other north-south arteries in the west portion of Los Angeles County and provide clean, efficient transportation to LAX.

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